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(b) The number of books purchased for the Connemara Public Library during each of the last ten years is given below :—

Year.	Number of books purchased.
1917-18	615
1918-19	344
1919-20	282
1920-21	189
1921-22	204
1922-23	207
1923-24	232
1924-25	259
1925-26	231
1926-27	241

The hon. Member may obtain particulars as to the number of books purchased for the Madras University Library from the Syndicate.

Control and management of the Oriental Manuscripts Library.

* 1304 Q.—MR. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to take early steps to transfer the control and the management of the Oriental Manuscripts Library to the University of Madras;

(b) whether it is a fact that a good number of the rare and valuable manuscripts in the said library are all heaped and thrown together in a room in an indiscriminate manner; and

(c) whether the Government propose to take necessary steps to locate the said library in a more spacious and safer building?

A.—(a) The question will be considered after the new University Library buildings are completed.

(b) No.

(c) There is at present no proposal to shift the library from its present habitation. If the University Library is removed from the premises of the Connemara Public Library, more space will become available for the Oriental Manuscripts Library.

Local Boards

Capsizing of the ferry boats conveying Roman Catholic pilgrims bound for Velanganni.

* 1305 Q.—MR. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some years ago the ferry boats conveying Roman Catholic pilgrims bound for Velanganni across a river at Negapatam capsized with the result that some pilgrims lost their lives;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, when this incident occurred and what was the extent of the loss to human lives;

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(c) what steps have since been taken to facilitate the safe passage of pilgrims to the other shore ;

(d) whether the District Board, Tanjore, prepared plans and estimates for putting up a bridge across the river in question ;

(e) if the answer is in the affirmative, what was the estimated cost ;

(f) what difficulties, if any, have stood in the way of this work being undertaken ; and

(g) whether the Government are moving in the matter ?

4.—(a) Yes.

(b) In September 1913. Not less than 16 lives were lost.

(c) The accident was due to the overcrowding of a boat. Steps have since been taken by the President of the Tanjore District Board to prevent such overcrowding.

(d) & (e) Yes. The estimated cost of a girder bridge as sanctioned by the Government in 1921 was Rs. 2,33,634.

(f) Want of money.

(g) Yes. The question of financing the scheme is under consideration.

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—“ With reference to the answer to clause (f), may I ask the hon. Minister whether this want of money refers to the estimated cost or whether some money is available even at present ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ I am authorized to answer this question. It is not merely the cost. The matter has been enquired into and it is doubtful whether the work itself is necessary.”

Nominations, Kistna District Board.

* 1306 Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that representations were received by the Government that the President of the old Kistna District Board, i.e., Zamindar of Mirzapuram, was mismanaging the affairs of the Board ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Zamindar of Mirzapuram interviewed the hon. the Chief Minister and His Excellency in connexion with his efforts to become the President of the Kistna District Board ;

(c) whether it is a fact that 27 members were nominated to the new Kistna District Board by Government in May at the time of the bifurcation of the old Kistna District Board and 5 more became members ex officio ;

(d) whether it is a fact that Dr. D. S. Ramachandra Rao, M.A., M.D., was unanimously elected as the President of the Kistna District Board only in the last week of June ;

(e) what was the number of members fixed for the new Kistna District Board by the Government Order of May last ordering bifurcation ;

(f) what is the present strength of the West Godavari District Board ;

(g) whether it is a fact that 18 more nominations were made to the Kistna District Board in September ;

(h) whether the President, Kistna District Board, i.e., Doctor Ramachandra Rao, was consulted with regard to these 18 more nominations and with regard to the personnel of these 18 nominations ;